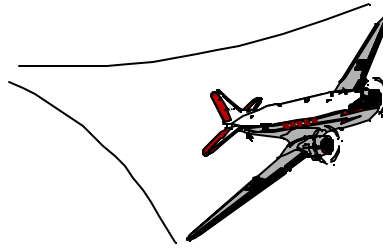


# SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

Aircraft Certification Service  
Washington, DC



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

No. SW-02-16  
February 19, 2002

*We post SAIBs on the internet at "av-info.faa.gov"*

*This is information only. Recommendations are not mandatory.*

## Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) informs you, a registered owner or operator, of an aircraft with certain **Weber Aircraft, Inc. Model 4000 seats installed**, of the potential that **seat spreader tubes may crack and fail** possibly resulting in an injury to an occupant. These seats are approved to **Technical Standard Order C-39b** and generally installed on large, transport category airplanes. The FAA has received two reports of the tubes failing, one of which resulted in the re-routing of an aircraft in flight.

## Background

In 1996 and 1997, Weber released service information letter SIL 1285 (Revision New, 12/96 and Revision 1, 1/97) and service bulletin 849598-25-1335 (Initial Release, 7/23/1997) notifying customers of the potential for the spreader tube to crack and recommending that either the tube be replaced or a doubler be added. The service bulletin contains all the necessary information regarding the replacement or modification. The FAA has recently received a report of a similar incident in December 2001. In that seat, the spreader tube had not been modified or replaced.

## Recommendation

The FAA recommends that you replace the spreader tube in accordance with Weber service bulletin 849598-25-1335. Failure to do so could result in the spreader tube cracking possibly leading to injury of an occupant sitting in the seat. To obtain a copy of the service information, please contact Don Westbrook, Weber Aircraft, at (940) 668-4117.

## For Further Information Contact

Rob Romero, Aerospace Engineer, FAA Ft. Worth ACO, 2601 Meacham Blvd, ASW-150, Ft. Worth, TX 76193, telephone: (817) 222-5102, fax: (817) 222-5960, e-mail: robert.a.romero@faa.gov